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**RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
EXAMINING GROUP 1712**

Navy Case No. 82,222

PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Usman A.K. Sorathia

Serial No. 09/822,308

Filed: March 29, 2001

For: FIREPROOF PROTECTION INTEGRATING: Confirmation No. 7684  
FABRICATION SYSTEM FOR COMPOSITE :  
STRUCTURES :

**RECEIVED**

APR 30 2003

TC 1700

: Group Art Unit: 1712

: Examiner: Michael J. Feely

AF/1712  
#18/H  
5/1/03  
7C

**AMENDMENT UNDER RULE 116**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Final Office action dated April 9, 2003, amendment of the above application is proposed as follows:

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claim 1-16 (cancelled).

17. (Currently amended). In a process for protective fabrication of a composite structure to be exposed to seawater environments, the improvement residing in ~~a sequence of steps including~~ performance in sequential order the following steps of: a) forming a barrier; b) introducing a fire resisting agent into the barrier after said forming thereof; c) forming a substrate; and d) attaching the barrier to the substrate in underlying relation thereto before completing the fabrication of the composite structure; wherein said introducing of the fire resisting agent comprises: infusion into the barrier.